

Colonel Puts Cruelties Up To Gen. Harts

Continued from page 1

him a razor blade, and he cut his throat.

"What He 'Often Wondered'

"Who was in charge while you were in the hospital?" Smith was asked.

"Lieutenant C. M. Leslie."

"Were conditions the same while he was there?"

"Yes, sir."

"Why wasn't he tried?"

"That's what I've often wondered. If

was guilty all the officers were

guilty."

Smith denied that he had ever taken

any property belonging to men in his

custody. He said on one or two oc-

casions he had bought souvenirs of

the men had when they came to the camp.

Once, he said, he paid 100 francs for a

Death's Head Hussar helmet and an-

other time about a franc for a pair of

spurs.

When the members of the sub-

committee had finished questioning him,

Smith asked permission to make a

statement. He said he wanted to ask

for an investigation of an assault made

on him by prisoners after he was con-

vinced and sent to the prison at St. Stulpice.

"I also request that a thorough in-

vestigation be made of all prisons and

detention camps in France," he added.

"The investigators will find that even

if Farm No. 2 was as bad as repre-

sented, it was a pleasure resort com-

pared with the others. I know one

prisoner who can give names, dates and

places. This man's name is Croker.

I should like to have the prison at

Jivres investigated; also the Bastille,

St. Anne's, Clingcourt and the others."

Describes the Assault

Smith, in describing the assault

made on him, said:

"I was received at St. Stulpice June

24 or 25 to do my sentence. The word

soon spread that 'Hardboiled' Smith

was there. While I was in the shower

bath about twenty prisoners tried to

rush me, but were held off by a cor-

poral.

"The corporal then put me in soli-

tary. Though a sentry was on duty out-

side the cell, the prisoners crowded out-

side and shouted insults at me. They

told me what they would do to me and

to my family. The sentry ignored

this. Then they began to pump the

fire extinguisher on me. They did this

repeatedly.

"Later in the afternoon the sentry

told me to come along with him for

supper. I knew the men were waiting

for me, and told him I didn't want any.

He said I'd just get it worse later and

to come along. I had not gone far

when fifteen or twenty prisoners

jumped on me. I think they were led

by a prison sergeant. I was knocked

unconscious.

"A prison sergeant was cursing me

when I came to and to my right was an

army chaplain and on my left an

officer. I expected them to interfere,

but they just smiled and walked away.

Pumped Sewage on Him

"Then I was put back in solitary and

other prisoners came and amused them-

selves by pumping sewage on me. After

two hours of this Dr. Hunter, also a

prisoner, prevailed on them to put

me in the infirmary, and I was there

two weeks. I feel that I owe my

life to Hunter and I also feel that he

is not guilty of any crime and ask that

his case be investigated.

"I don't expect to live much longer,

and I never tell anything but the

truth about Farm No. 2. I think the

prison system is at fault."

Sergeant Clarence Ball contradicted

the testimony of Lieutenant Smith in

his testimony.

"My instructions were to beat the

men, to treat them rough," he said.

"Lieutenant Smith told me they would

have to be punished. I began just as

soon as I was made a prison sergeant."

"Were you ever instructed directly

by Lieutenant Smith to beat a pris-

oner?" Representative Johnson asked.

"Well, I didn't," replied Ball, "some-

body took a bath in oil and Smith said to

me, 'Take this man and educate him.' On

the way to the solitary cell I told the

man I didn't want to hit him, and I

said, 'When I shove you in there, you'll

fall down as though I had knocked you

down.' He was a red-headed sergeant

out of the Tank Corps.

Says Officers Saw Him

"Another time I hit a fellow in

front of Smith and five other officers."

"What else did you hit them with

besides your fist?" asked Mr. Johnson.

"Just my fist."

"You are pretty strong, aren't you?"

Legion to Help Recover Slain Heroes' Effects

THE AMERICAN LEGION has offered its services to members of the families of soldiers who died in France to aid them in obtaining as quickly as possible the personal effects of those who were killed. In many cases, it is said, there has been considerable delay in forwarding personal property to the families, and owing to the lack of information on their part as to the proper method of procedure unnecessary trouble and sorrow have been caused.

The national officers of the American Legion, whose headquarters are at 10 West Forty-fourth Street, ask all families which require such service, and members of posts who are acquainted with the details of individual cases, to notify them at once.

"Yes, I'm strong, all right."

"And some of those men were just

out of the hospital?"

"Yes, sir; I was myself, too."

"How many prisoners did you hit

with your fist?"

"Oh, I couldn't count 'em."

"Fifty or one hundred?"

"Yes, sir."

"Were you ever ordered to hit any

other men?"

"Lieutenant Hufelstein told me to

beat up four men who had run away.

The other sergeants helped, and he

watched us."

"Did the prisoners fight back?"

"No, sir," he replied with a grin.

"Did they ever fight or hit back?"

"No, sir."

"What were some of the offenses for

which the men were beaten?"

"Well, I caught smoking in

barracks or outside the twenty-minute

period after meals they were beaten.

I used to pass up lots of such

cases, but the officers never did."

"Lots of 'em?"

"Were men beaten up for chewing

tobacco?"

"Would the men be bloody after a

beating, and then put under a hose

and washed down?"

"Well, I caught many of 'em, sir."

"If they complained about the food,

what happened?"

"Beaten up, in trouble again."

"If they made a plea for medical

attention because they were sick?"

"They got no attention."

"Did you ever see Colonel Grinstead?"

"Yes, sir."

"Didn't he interfere with the brutal

treatment?"

"The colonel came through the

prison frequently, but he was in it

as much as anybody. He knew what

was going on."

"Could he see the bloody men?"

"If he couldn't see them he's got

bad eyesight."

"Where would the men sleep?"

"Anywhere a man could be stuck;

out in the field, in pen tents."

"Did they have any protection from

the mud?"

"Only a little straw."

"Called Them Everything

"Did 'Hard Boiled' Smith ever call

the men names?"

"He called 'em everything he could

think of."

"What were you convicted of?"

"Assault; hitting a prisoner; using

provoking speech."

"Did Smith ever take any property

from the men?"

"I know of one man. He took money

off of him, tore up his sister's picture

and then slapped the man's face. The

man was here in Fort Jay."

"What was done with the property

taken from the men?"

"Every time a man came into the

prison his money was laid out on the

table and the lieutenants would take it."

"What was done with the souvenirs

the men might have?"

"They were thrown into a big box

and the box was shoved into the officers'

quarters. When it was empty it was

brought back."

"Did you ever see General Harts?"

"No, sir. I don't know him."

Ball said that if he hadn't struck

Irwin Untermyer



Copyright, Underwood & Underwood

Irwin Untermyer, son of Samuel Untermyer, who yesterday was designated by the executive committee of Tammany Hall as candidate for Supreme Court Justice to succeed Justice Joseph E. Newburger.

"We were men beaten up for chewing

tobacco."

"Would the men be bloody after a

beating, and then put under a hose

and washed down?"

"Well, I caught many of 'em, sir."

"If they complained about the food,

what happened?"

"Beaten up, in trouble again."

"If they made a plea for medical

attention because they were sick?"

"They got no attention."

"Did you ever see Colonel Grinstead?"

"Yes, sir."

"Didn't he interfere with the brutal

treatment?"

"The colonel came through the

prison frequently, but he was in it

as much as anybody. He knew what

was going on."

"Could he see the bloody men?"

"If he couldn't see them he's got

bad eyesight."

"Where would the men sleep?"

"Anywhere a man could be stuck;

out in the field, in pen tents."

"Did they have any protection from

the mud?"

"Only a little straw."

"Called Them Everything

"Did 'Hard Boiled' Smith ever call

the men names?"

"He called 'em everything he could

think of."

"What were you convicted of?"

"Assault; hitting a prisoner; using

provoking speech."

"Did Smith ever take any property

from the men?"

"I know of one man. He took money

off of him, tore up his sister's picture

and then slapped the man's face. The

man was here in Fort Jay."

"What was done with the property

taken from the men?"

"Every time a man came into the

prison his money was laid out on the

table and the lieutenants would take it."

"What was done with the souvenirs

the men might have?"

"They were thrown into a big box

and the box was shoved into the officers'

quarters. When it was empty it was

brought back."

"Did you ever see General Harts?"

"No, sir. I don't know him."

Ball said that if he hadn't struck

him, but were held off by a cor-

poral.

"The corporal then put me in soli-

tary. Though a sentry was on duty out-

side the cell, the prisoners crowded out-

side and shouted insults at me. They

told me what they would do to me and

to my family. The sentry ignored

this. Then they began to pump the

fire extinguisher on me. They did this

repeatedly.

"Later in the afternoon the sentry

told me to come along with him for

supper. I knew the men were waiting

for me, and told him I didn't want any.

He said I'd just get it worse later and

to come along. I had not gone far

when fifteen or twenty prisoners

jumped on me. I think they were led

by a prison sergeant. I was knocked

unconscious.

"A prison sergeant was cursing me

when I came to and to my right was an

army chaplain and on my left an

officer. I expected them to interfere,

but they just smiled and walked away.

Pumped Sewage on Him

"Then I was put back in solitary and

other prisoners came and amused them-

selves by pumping sewage on me. After

two hours of this Dr. Hunter, also a

prisoner, prevailed on them to put

me in the infirmary, and I was there

two weeks. I feel that I owe my

life to Hunter and I also feel that he

is not guilty of any crime and ask that

his case be investigated.

"I don't expect to live much longer,

and I never tell anything but the

truth about Farm No. 2